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METHODIST PEACE COURIER

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"A NATIONWIDE PROGRAM FOR PEACE"

Newspaper headlines have already whetted the appetite of alert churchmen for the report f the Fifth World Order Study Conference in Cleveland in late November. We are promsed by the National Council mimeographed copies of the findings and all related material arly next year. Meanwhile, a staff member has abridged the major reports for our readers.

taff members and many Methodist delegates would concur with the judgment of Editor Harold Fey of Christian Century that this conference was the most independent and proressive of any since the first one.

> Much more important than the Study Conference, however, is the year-long "Nationwide Program for Peace" from June, 1959 to June, 1960. This coordinated emphasis by the churches will continue study, discussion and action on the same issues across the entire country. This is the first time that the member churches of the National Council of Churches and state and local councils have agreed to devote a year of intensive work in education and action in a coordinated emphasis on international affairs across the 49 states of the U.S.A.

ooking ahead to the program for peace, we see the following major elements:

Spring-1958-59	Publication of World Order Study Conference Reports, and Special Study Materials
Summer-1959	Leadership Training in Conferences, Camps, Assemblies, both denominational and ecumenical
Sept.-Oct.	Leadership Training Institutes in every possible state council of churches
Nov.-Dec.	Leadership Training Institutes in every possible local council of churches
Jan.-June-1960	Education and Action Programs in every possible local church across the country

his program is being planned, not to set up a series of more meetings and activities, ut to relate Christian concerns in international affairs to ongoing programs, publications nd work in churches -- national, state and local.

> Participation in the Nationwide Program for Peace may well be an objective in the social action plans of many annual conferences next year. The theme ties in with the booklet, "Christ and Our Freedoms," now being written by Bishop Wicke to round out the quadrennial emphasis.

GLIMPSES OF CLEVELAND

Glimpses of the World Order Study Conference are given through these excerpts, first from the General Message adopted by the entire body, and secondly through brief statements from the reports of the various separate sections.

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FROM THE GENERAL MESSAGE

...Christians are not fools ... They know that the capacity for destruction possible in war today exceeds the most ominous forebodings of yesterday. They know that should either the U.S. or the Soviet Union commit its full power to all-out international war mutual destruction would ensue. Great cities would lie in ruins; whole populations would be annihilated; a radio-active plague would settle on the earth; the well-being, perhaps even the existence, of future generations would be placed in grave jeopardy.

Therefore, the immediate task of every Christian is to seize the initiative in the prevention of war and the achievement of peace in a world of intercontinental ballistic, thermonuclear weapons, and platforms in outer space for missile launching sites.

Lulled by well-worn policy phrases of 'deterrence,' 'limited war,' 'massive retaliation,' and 'the power to win a war', the people of the United States may still not realize the magnitude of the destructive weapons at the instant command of Washington and Moscow. While such conceptions may have served a significant purpose in the earlier stage, the development of modern weapons places grave doubt on their meaning and usefulness today.

'The power to win a war' has lost its significance when used in connection with such weapons. With bombers and missile bases under constant alert there is little possibility of conclusive advantage from surpise attack and every reason to expect the immediate administration of blows of irreparable damage to both sides.

Thus we find ourselves always on the brink of annihilation. In case of a real or imagined attack the decisions that may lead to ultimate war will have to be made in a few moments. There is real danger that error in judgment, born of panic, may precipitate the war no one wants and no one can hope to survive. Under these perilous conditions the policy of deterrence, however necessary it may be considered, may cease to deter, thus posing the threat not alone of military defeat for the aggressor, but mutual suicide as well.

We renew the plea made by the National Council of Churches for the abolition of Universal Military Training.

...We should welcome the fact that the world is not divided into two solid political blocs. The effort of our own government to drive every nation into one bloc or the other has been as mistaken as it has been unsuccessful.

With reference to China, Christians should urge reconsideration of our government of its policy in regard to the Peoples Republic of China. While the rights of the people of Taiwan and Korea should be safeguarded, steps should be taken toward the inclusion of the Peoples Republic of China in the United Nations and for its recognition by our government. Such recognition does not imply approval. These diplomatic relations should constitute a part of a much wider relationship between our peoples. The exclusion of the effective government on the mainland of China, currently the Peoples Republic of China, from the international community is in many ways a disadvantage to that community.

QUOTATIONS FROM "THE POWER STRUGGLE AND SECURITY IN A NUCLEAR-SPACE AGE"

... That the intransigeance and aggressive tactics of the communist powers are caused part by fear for their own security, is not to be denied. The tragic experience of the ussian people in two world wars and the history of Western imperialism must be taken in- account if we are to understand contemporary Communist attitudes. American nuclear ockpiles and widely scattered military bases, some of them near the borders of the oviet Union, arouse apprehension. Accordingly, we, on our part, must try more earnestly an we have done, so to conduct ourselves that communist nations will have less cause fear our intentions. But their fear also arises out of a legitimate Western response to eir aggression. The aggressive aims of the communists are a real and formidable factor world tensions and a responsible national policy must take this into account. ... ...

The United States should assume greater initiative toward bringing national armaments nder international inspection and control in a process directed toward their consequent eduction, limitation and eventual abolition. ... ...

We believe the United States Government should continue its present suspension of tests ven if unilaterally, for a sufficient period of time to permit full exploration of the possi- lities of arriving at a continuing international agreement. ... ...

Abolish the system of military conscription and allow the authority of the Selective Service ystem to draft men to lapse on its expiration next June. ... ...

With respect to China, United States policy has not been responsive to the realities. hile we cannot condone many of the things for which communism stands, it is the part of isdom to recognize that we see no reasonable alternative open to us other than to recog- ize that Communist China is a nation of tremendous and growing importance with whom we ust live. To continue to treat this great power as an outcast can serve only to deepen xisting tensions and to further developments in China which we must deplore. ... ...

We ... urge that special consideration be given to providing India with sufficient economic nd technical assistance to insure the success of her development program. The fact that ndia has been unwilling to identify itself with us in our military policy should not deter us this. ... ...

QUOTATIONS FROM "OVERSEAS AREAS OF RAPID SOCIAL CHANGE"

We believe that substantially larger sums of money should be made available through the overnment as well as individual and voluntary groups for economic development in the reas of rapid social change. We strongly believe that military and economic aid should e separated. ... ...

We urge that American enterprises operating abroad make greater efforts to carry over into ess developed areas the human and social gains which are the fruits of a century and half f business and labor leadership in the Western world, of social awakening, of education nd of legislation. ... ...

We recommend also that provision be made under suitable auspices for the establishment f an Ecumenical Placement Service whereby qualified Christian personnel from many ountries could be more readily found for professional and technical service with agencies f development.

QUOTATIONS FROM "THE CHANGING DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS"

As Christians we hold that rights and duties are inseparable as two sides of the same ield. Every right implies a corresponding duty. No one can claim a right at the expense f a more important right for others. We cannot act lawlessly and expect freedom, or efuse to work and expect a high standard of living as a matter of right. ... ...

We strongly urge the Department of State to present to the United States Senate, with its trong support, the Genocide Convention adopted by the United Nations and ratified by fty-eight sovereign states. This convention to prevent the persecution and extermination f minorities was initiated by an American citizen and supported by our delegates in the nited Nations. For various reasons, the convention never reached the floor of the United tates Senate for its consideration and action. We believe this convention should now be onsidered and ratified by the Senate so that this nation, in company with other free and overeign states, may stand as a champion of the weak, oppressed and persecuted.

QUOTATIONS FROM "INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PEACEFUL CHANGE"

The principle of universality of membership, as urged by the National Study Conference of 945, seems to us a sound principle: That all nations willing to accept the obligations of he Charter be admitted ... Membership provides the international community with oppor- unity for affecting the attitudes of States and consequently with leverage for modifying heir policies. Important issues like disarmament require an inclusive approach for effec- ve solutions. For such reasons, we urge the government to pursue, and our people to upport, a course designed to complete the membership of the UN. This would mean nclusion of mainland China without exclusion of Taiwan, and some interim arrangement egarding Germany, Korea, and Vietnam, pending reunification. ....

The 1943 Delaware World Order Study Conference said: 'Certain powers now exercised by ational governments must be delegated to international government, organized and acting n accordance with a world system of law. Among the powers so delegated should be the aintenance and use of armed forces except for reservation of domestic order.' Unfortunate- y, these requirements for peace have not yet been achieved. Massive national armaments, nder no world control, reflect world anarchy, not world order.

We recognize the urgent necessity of creating a world system which will help to exclude ar from human affairs. This means that the world must move rapidly toward a new system f security based on just law and disarmament of nations, peacefully inspected and nforced, for example, through the United Nations arms control commission, police and ourts."

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or the independence of colonies and atellite nations.

We urge the strengthening of the U.N. by utting under its control such matters as pace exploration, and by asking our overnment to try every possibility of U.N. ction before it takes issues of vital nternational concern into its own hands."

Resolution by Council of Bishops

The resolution reminds draft boards that The Methodist Church recognizes the right of its members to answer the call of their government according to the dictates of their Christian conscience.

The resolution also called for a careful re- study of the actual need before any suc- cessor conscription law is passed at the expiration next year of the present one.

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CAMPAIGN TO END DRAFT

n June 30, 1959, the authority to draft men nto the armed forces under the Selective ervice System expires. Unless Congress re- ews this authority, the draft board structure f Selective Service will continue to register nd classify men on a standby status, but no ne can be inducted into the armed forces xcept on a voluntary basis.

he General Conference of The Methodist hurch, along with other denominations, has onsistently opposed any permanent system f peace time compulsory military training. nce the end of World War II, the leadership f Methodism has made strenuous and suc- essful efforts on several occasions to de- at proposals for a permanent system of niversal military training.

he Council of Bishops has suggested that onsideration be given to allowing the pres- nt law to expire. The World Order Study onference of the National Council of Churches nd a recent convention of the Disciples of hrist denomination have made similar proposals.

ans are now being developed for joint action y several church groups and denominations o oppose any renewal of the authority to draft en into the armed forces, and a series of m eetings is tentatively being projected to ssist in organizing such opposition. The taff of the Board of World Peace is cooperat- ng in this move as a result of the encourage- ent of a number of bishops of the Church, nd in the light of the prevailing opinion mong the delegates to the World Order Study onference held in Cleveland.

he staff of the Board recommends to the annual onference, district, and local church leader- hip in the field of peace and Christian Social elations that they include in their planning or the next six months definite provision for mely efforts to educate public opinion con- erning the legislative situation and to encour- ge church people to express their convictions n this significant question. Further informa- on on regional meetings and future plans may e obtained by addressing the office of the oard.

BISHOPS' STATEMENT

In its meeting in Cincinnati November 13 the Council of Bishops released a message and resolutions which have important pronouncements for peace leaders in our Church. The entire message is available in printed form published jointly by the three General Boards dealing with social action. Copies are free; we would appreciate postage for mailing.

Included in the message are the following statements on world affairs:

"The world situation has become so critical that a rethinking of our foreign policy is necessary. Therefore, we call upon the United States Government to clarify its policy in the light of a space-atomic age. ... Only by constant search and continuous study on the part of government leaders, scientists and average people can a foreign policy, flexible enough to meet rapidly changing world conditions, be brought about.

"We call upon our people to take an increased initiative in the matter of the control of nuclear armaments and in the suspension of nuclear weapons tests, either on a temporary or a permanent basis, preferably by a ban internationally agreed upon.

"We urge a specific limitation on the production and storage of long-range missiles and we believe it is not too late to reach an agreement confining the installation of missile bases to places where inspection would be feasible.

"To lay firm foundations of peace, we give hearty endorsement to such foreign policy endeavor as the Hoover European program of relief, the Marshall Plan, 'Atoms for Peace,' a lowering of trade barriers, a strengthening of such other 'mutual aid' programs as those dealing with technical assistance and the development of natural resources for nations in rapid social and economic change and urge that we labor untiringly

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AFFAIRS AFAR

ASHINGTON: Recently the Washington ffice of the National Council of Churches eleased in a staff council meeting a list f 27 major domestic and international opics confronting the 86th Congress. ight important in world peace are:

Peace-time uses of atomic power; Foreign id; Disarmament; Organization for trade ooperation; Exchange of persons program; oreign policy study; Study of U.S. relaons with the American policies; Support or UN and its specialized agencies.

HICAGO: A 16 mm color film, ALTERNAIVES, which objectively states the facts bout conscientious objectors and the prosions for alternative service, has just een released for general use in schools, hurches and youth assemblies. Four gencies of The Methodist Church have ded in its production. A folder on the lm is available from our office.

REWSTER, N.Y.: Motive magazine, Methost student publication, printed an article World Federation - A Must." by Miss Tracy . Mygatt, New York secretary of the Camaign for World Government, Inc. It deals ith the need for the world's nations to step eyond the United Nations to a democratic deration or government. Reprints of the rticle may be had free on request to Miss ygatt, RFD, Brewster, New York.

AMBRIDGE, MASS.: A file of volunteers ho will serve one or more years in a nited Nations voluntary service corps at ubsistence pay is being made up at the JN File Office, Box 179, Cambridge 38, ass. Persons trained in many skills and ocations are needed. A descriptive leaflet om the address given describes fully the ocedure.

ETROIT: Social action leaders of the etroit Conference were among sponsors of e city's Tenth Anniversary Celebration of e United Nations Universal Declaration of uman Rights which presented Dr. Frank P. raham of North Carolina, UN representave for India and Pakistan.

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ur new 1959 peace materials list is availle on request.

ST.LOUIS: The Greater St.Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information presented a series of Sunday evening public meetings with noted scientists on the topic "Nuclear Explosions: What They Are - What They Do." Their information bulletin points out that Carbon 14, a radioactive element produced by nuclear explosions, may represent a greater hazard than Strontium 90. "Clean" bombs, therefore, which are low in fall-out, but high in neutron production, may ultimately cause more damage than do "dirty" bombs.

SEATTLE: Rev. Dr. G. Hurst Paul of North Broadway Church held an unusual World Order Sunday service on peace. The chancel was filled with a military arsenal loaned by Fort Lawton, "displayed to dramatize the incongruity of warfare and Christianity...The smugness, competition for prestige, power politics, causing wars are basically un-Christian."

WASHINGTON: Two Quakers holding pacifist views, Rep. William H. Meyer (D.-Vt.) and Rep. Byron Johnson (D.-Colo.) were elected to Congress in campaigns where their C.O. positions and related peace and war interests were major issues. Mrs. Rudd Brown (D.-Calif.), a granddaughter of William Jennings Bryan, was elected on a similar platform.

OCONOMOWOC, WIS.: Mrs. E.E. Kinkel, Chairman of Wisconsin Conference Board of Christian Social Relations, released an interesting bulletin insert the Sunday before election covering answers by Congressional candidates to a questionnaire on foreign policy circulated by that Conference agency.

CHICAGO: The regional office of the American Friends Service Committee announces for 15¢ an automobile bumper sticker reading: "End the Missile Race -- Save Humanity."

CANTON, MASS.: Rev. Dr. Earl A. Baker, retired vice-president of Cornell College, former pastor and district superintendent, died here November 6. Dr. Baker was a former member of the Board of World Peace and chairman of its budget committee.

TORRANCE, CALIF.; Richard Stephenson, Methodist layman and trustee of his local church, was the engineer who triggered the fourth stage of the recent moon rocket from South Point, Hawaii.